Data Availability and Transparency Act: the first 3 years

The *Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022* (the Act) establishes the DATA Scheme (the Scheme) – a best practice scheme for sharing data collected by Australian Government agencies. The purpose of the Scheme is to increase the availability and use of Australian Government data to deliver better government services, policies and programs and world-leading research and development. For an overview of the Scheme's first three years, see [here](#).

Statutory review of the Act

The statutory review of the Act is to consider how the Scheme has operated over its first 3 years, advanced the objects of the legislation and whether it should remain in force. To inform the review, this paper provides an overview of the Scheme's operation since the commencement of the legislation through to 30 April 2025. Key metrics are shown in Figure 1.

Establishing a trusted data sharing community through accreditation

To allow the Scheme time to establish and mature, only Government agencies and universities are eligible to participate. To do so they must first be accredited. So, establishing a trusted data sharing community was an early focus. There are now 35 unique accredited entities – 17 Commonwealth agencies, 10 State and Territory agencies and 8 Australian universities. There are 31 accredited users and 13 accredited data service providers; 9 entities are accredited as both users and data service providers. Appendix A and the [public register](#) contain further information on accredited entities.

Facilitating data sharing

Over the establishment phase, the Scheme has enabled safe sharing of data collected by Australian Government agencies. More than 50 data requests have been made through Dataplace, the platform to find and request Australian Government data. 31 of these have been made by accredited entities under the Scheme. The other 23 requests were "general" requests – requests by entities not eligible to participate in the Scheme and that use another legal pathway to authorise data sharing. So far, the requests have resulted in 25 instances of data sharing. Notably, the Scheme is enabling data sharing to create the National Disability Data Asset and following the first release of the asset in December 2024, access to it.

Another early priority was making legislative instruments. This included codes to guide Scheme participants on applying the data sharing principles, including the public interest test and approach to consent, privacy and ethics, as well as managing national security risks. Regulations prescribed Australian Government agencies and data that could not be shared under the Scheme. The National Data Commissioner's [advice](#), [guidance](#) and education functions were also stood up to support safe data sharing.

Dataplace and the Australian Government Data Catalogue

Dataplace was launched in June 2022, and to facilitate data discovery, Dataplace features the Australian Government Data Catalogue (the Catalogue), which draws on the data inventories of Australian Government agencies, including open and restricted data. The Catalogue was added to Dataplace in July 2024. Dataplace and the Catalogue play an important role in promoting better availability of public sector data and the institutional arrangements for sharing data held by Australian Government agencies. They have wider application beyond the Scheme. Eligible Scheme entities and other organisations can use Dataplace as their 'one stop shop' to find and request data held by Australian Government agencies. The digital platform guides data users and data custodians (Australian Government agencies) to apply consistent and best data sharing practices, streamlining sharing and helping them comply with the Scheme's safeguards.

The number of organisations onboarded to Dataplace has grown to 120. There are more than 55,000 data assets available on the Catalogue, with 22 Australian Government agencies contributing metadata records of almost 600 data assets. The Data Inventory Pilot Program supported 44 Australian Government agencies to develop an inventory of data assets they hold. It enabled an uplift in agency capability and laid the foundations for the Catalogue.

Transparency and trust

Transparency in sharing of data held by Australian Government agencies has been enhanced through registers of accredited users and data sharing agreements and the National Data Commissioner's annual reports on the operation of the Scheme.

Scheme participants are also being held accountable for meeting robust standards through regulation of the Scheme. Accreditation plays a key role in ensuring the Scheme's integrity.

The Office of the National Data Commissioner (ONDC) has increased its monitoring activities focusing on accredited entities continuing to meet expected characteristics, timely handling of requests, refusals of data sharing requests, and compliance with data sharing agreements.

Listening and learning

The first three years of the Scheme has been a tremendous learning opportunity for ONDC, Scheme participants and other organisations. The valuable feedback and advice provided by Scheme participants and the National Data Advisory Council has spurred improvements in ONDC's performance and the Scheme's operation and provided a solid evidence base to inform the review.
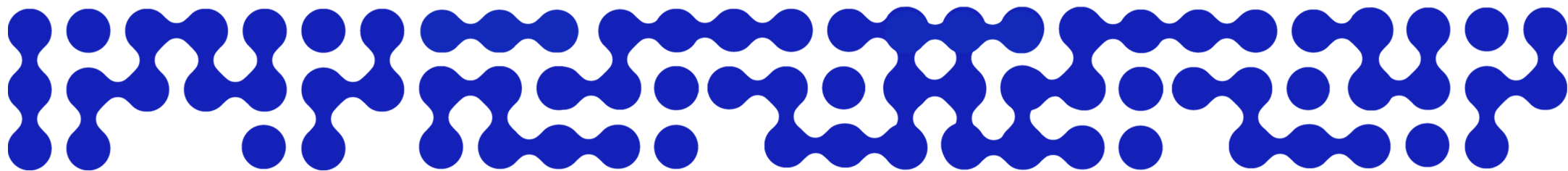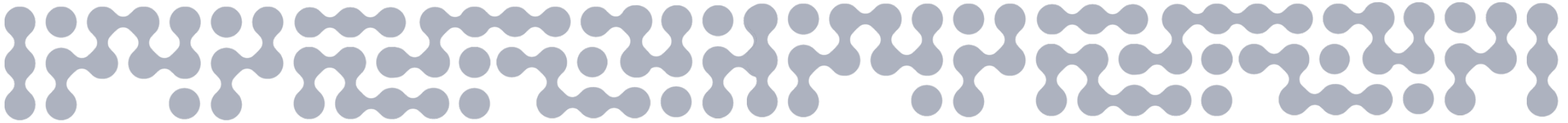
Figure 1. DATA Scheme Activity

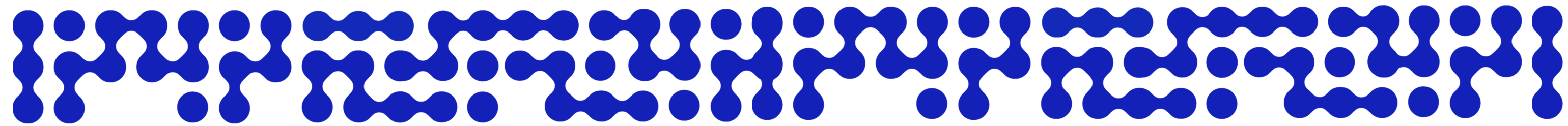| Engagement of Participants	Australian Government Data Catalogue	Dataplace	Accredited Users	Accredited Data Service Providers	Data Sharing Requests	Data Sharing	Compliance & Regulation
280 meetings with Scheme entities **69 presentations** to forums **94 information sessions** held with 313 unique organisations **1100 enquiries** **10,90** average **monthly website views** **1,885 DataPoints subscribers** **880 LinkedIn followers**	**56,029 records available** on the Australian Government Data Catalogue **22 agencies contributing records** directly from their data inventory **595 metadata records** directly contributed to the Australian Government Data Catalogue	**120** organisations **completed onboarding** **16** organisations have **commenced onboarding**	**31 data users accredited** **4 data user** applications **being assessed**	**13 data service providers accredited** **2 data service providers renewed** **1 data service provider** application **being assessed** **5 data service provider renewal** applications **being assessed**	**31 data requests** under the Scheme **23 general requests** made through Dataplace	**8 data sharing agreements** under the Scheme **14 general data sharing** **3 data sharing from a variation to data sharing agreements** under the Scheme **2 administrative variations to data sharing agreements** under the Scheme	**16 complaints** **0** Scheme complaints **6** general complaints **10** other complaints **12 events/changes in circumstance** **2** under assessment **10** resolved **0 data breaches** As at 30 April 2025

Appendix A – DATA Scheme Accredited Entities

Organisation	Accreditation Type	Date Accredited*	Condition/s (if applicable)	ADSP Services (if applicable)
Australian Government Agency				
Attorney-General's Department	Accredited User	02/08/2024		
Australian Bureau of Statistics	Accredited User	05/07/2023		Complex Data Integration, Secure Data Access Services and De-identification
	Accredited Data Service Provider(ADSP)	11/02/2025		
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care	Accredited User	29/02/2024		
Australian Institute of Family Studies	Accredited Data Service Provider	29/09/2022		Complex Data Integration, Secure Data Access Services and De-identification
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	Accredited User	29/06/2023		Complex Data Integration, Secure Data Access Services and De-identification
	Accredited Data Service Provider	19/12/2024		
Australian Securities and Investments Commission	Accredited User	30/05/2024		
Department of Education	Accredited User	03/05/2024		
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Accredited User	30/04/2024		
Department of Finance	Accredited User	02/08/2024		
Department of Health and Aged Care	Accredited User	19/10/2023		
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	Accredited User	07/06/2023		
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	Accredited User	18/01/2024		
Department of Social Services	Accredited User	7/07/2023	ADSP: The entity must not provide secure access data services as part of a project.	Complex Data Integration and De-identification
	Accredited Data Service Provider	29/09/2022		
Department of the Treasury	Accredited User	05/05/2023		
Digital Transformation Agency	Accredited User	29/11/2024		
National Disability Insurance Agency	Accredited User	04/10/2024		
Productivity Commission	Accredited User	17/05/2024		

Organisation	Accreditation Type	Date Accredited*	Condition/s (if applicable)	ADSP Services (if applicable)
State and Territory Government Agency				
ACT Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	Accredited User	12/09/2024		
NSW Health Administration Corporation	Accredited Data Service Provider	21/12/2023	The entity must not provide secure access data services as part of a project.	Complex Data Integration and De-identification
NSW Ministry of Health	Accredited User	28/06/2024		
NSW Department of Customer Service	Accredited User Accredited Data Service Provider	17/06/2024 28/03/2024	ADSP: The entity must not provide de-identification data services, secure access data services or complex data integration services as part of a project unless those services are provided by the Data Analytics Centre. The entity must not undertake data linkage as part of complex data integration services provided for a project.	Complex Data Integration, Secure Access Data Services and De-identification
Queensland Health	Accredited Data Service Provider	25/11/2023		Complex Data Integration
Queensland Treasury	Accredited User Accredited Data Service Provider	29/11/2024 29/09/2022	ADSP: The entity must not provide de-identification data services or complex data integration services as part of a project unless those services are provided by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office. The entity must not provide secure access data services as part of a project. User: The entity may only collect or use scheme data if the collection or use is undertaken by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office.	Complex Data Integration and De-identification
SA Department of Treasury and Finance	Accredited Data Service Provider	03/10/2024	The Department must not provide de-identified data services, secure access data services or complex data integration services as part of a project unless those services are provided by the Office of Data Analytics (ODA) and within the ODA data lab.	Complex Data Integration, Secure Access Data Services, and De-identification
Victorian Department of Health	Accredited User Accredited Data Service Provider	30/01/2024 29/09/2022	ADSP: The entity must not provide de-identification data services, complex data integration services or secure access data services as part of a project unless those services are provided by the Centre for Victorian Data Linkage.	Complex Data Integration, Secure Data Access Services and De-identification
Western Australia Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Accredited User Accredited Data Service Provider	30/04/2024 03/07/2024	ADSP: The entity must not provide de-identified data services, secure access data services or complex data integration services as part of a project unless those services are provided by the Office of Digital Government (DGov) and within PeopleWA data lab. The entity must not undertake data linkage activities with personal information as part of complex data integration services provided for a project.	Complex Data Integration, Secure Data Access Services and De-identification
Western Australia Department of Health	Accredited User	22/06/2023 13/12/2023	ADSP: The entity must not provide secure access data services as part of a project.	Complex Data Integration and De-identification

Organisation	Accreditation Type	Date Accredited*	Condition/s (if applicable)	ADSP Services (if applicable)
	Accredited Data Service Provider			
Australian Universities				
Monash University	Accredited User	18/12/2023		
The University of Adelaide	Accredited User	18/06/2024		
The University of Melbourne	Accredited User Accredited Data Service Provider	10/05/2024 02/05/2024	ADSP: The entity must not provide de-identification data services, secure access data services or complex data integration services as part of a project unless those services are provided by the Melbourne Institute in the Melbourne Institute Data Lab. The entity must not undertake data linkage with the use of personal identifiers as part of complex data integration services provided for a project.	Complex Data Integration, Secure Access Data Services, and De-identification
The University of New South Wales	Accredited User	10/11/2023		
The University of Queensland	Accredited User	25/06/2024		
The University of Sydney	Accredited User	05/12/2023		
The University of Western Australia	Accredited User	11/04/2024		
University of Tasmania	Accredited User	30/04/2025	The entity may only store Scheme data within the Tasmanian Data Linkage Unit.	